



Paul Francis Barland

September 18, 1949 - August 23, 2022

On August 23, 2022 Paul F. Barland of New Hope, Minnesota passed away, surrounded by family, at the age of 72. He suffered a fall in the driveway that morning, and despite immediate care he suffered a major stroke in his brain stem while being treated at North Memorial.

Paul was born September 18, 1949 at 4:46 pm at Maternity Hospital in North Minneapolis. The fifth of five siblings (Tom, Bill, Alice, and Patricia) to Fritz and Kay Barland. He grew up in the northwestern Minneapolis suburbs of Osseo and Crystal.

Paul always said that in his primary education he was always told that he would be perfect for the NASA space program since he was always taking up space. After graduating from Robbinsdale High School in 1968 he worked for Graingers until Uncle Sam took him "kicking and screaming", as he said, into the US Army. Trained as a clerk typist he was soon sent to Vietnam, where he served in the relative safety of Saigon.

Paul was decidedly not a fan of the military, so left the service early when given the chance to on the condition he began attending college. He was a Specialist Four with a line number (that is to say a date decided for his promotion) to Specialist Five when he left the Army. After the service Paul grew out his signature full beard (which he'd never again be without) and went

to Dunwoody. By his estimation, he went to classes for "a couple weeks."

He began working in the trades, first as a framing carpenter building houses and then as a union glazier around the time of his first marriage. He would ultimately spend nearly 30 years working with glass. First as an installer, where he put glass panels in places as varied as the Skyways of downtown, 30 stories up on the sides of skyscrapers, and bulletproof glass at banks and police departments. After a couple of serious back injuries, he ended his career as a glazier assembling shower doors for Minneapolis Glass for the final ~17 years.

In 1980 and '82 he had two sons Mason and Taylor. As the boys grew up, Paul enjoyed taking them to monster truck shows, his friend's cabin in the far north woods, and to car shows and swap meets.

On the latter topic, Paul had a great love for classic cars and always had at least one (and usually many, many more) projects underway. In 2000, Paul flew with his two sons and his friend Joe to Dallas, Texas to buy two classic Chevy trucks and drive them back. They made it halfway before the older of the two broke down, so they rented a tow dolly and dragged the busted one back, with the boys riding on lawn chairs in the bed from Joplin, MO back home.

Around the turn of the millennium, Paul discovered his second great mechanical love; motorcycles. Paul and his sons rebuilt and upgraded Paul's elder brother Tom's hardtail custom Harley after Tom died unexpectedly. Paul then built another custom Harley (a softtail) and then bought a full bagger as he got older and wanted more comfort after he retired in 2007.

Paul bought his ideal house, in New Hope, soon after. It was a small, single-level house with room for a detached dream garage several hundred square

feet. The garage was his place of bliss, and his many friends and family would always know to find him out there, where he always maintained an open door policy of welcoming everyone. On any given day, you would find him elbows deep in some mechanical project or another with three or four friends, neighbors, or other on-lookers milling around.

Paul's five grandchildren and his several step-grandchildren were his favorite. Despite his bearded, biker-like physical appearance leading him to terrify very small children on sight (and earning him the nickname "Scary Uncle Paul" from some of his great-nieces and great-nephews), he was a softie for kids and would do anything to get them to smile. He enjoyed having them around, drawing with them, or going to the park. Even when his physical condition started to deteriorate, he would never turn down a trip to watch the kids play.

Paul's first marriage broke up in the mid-90s, but he married a second time to Deb in 2014 where they lived in New Hope on their property where Paul had his amazing, oversized garage and his efficiently-sized house.

They had a standing date on Saturdays watching Svengoolie in bed with snacks. They would come back from their many road trips with the dogs with Paul recalling numerous funny stories.

Paul was known for being jovial, with a joke (however appropriate or inappropriate) always at the ready. He was loved and would quickly be on a first name basis with all the employees and regular patrons of any store, bank, bar, or restaurant he went to.

Paul had a massive heart and was always willing to do whatever he could to help anyone, even strangers. After a tornado ripped through his neighborhood in Maple Grove in the mid-80s, as soon as the storm cleared, he grabbed

every tarp in the garage, his saws, and some hammers and nails and went out to help clean up. At the time of his death he'd found a deal on a handicapped van that he was fixing up and was talking about driving it down to Oklahoma and giving it to a friend in a wheelchair. No charge. He just wanted to make Joe's life a little easier.

Paul always put his love for cars to use to help countless people either find an economical ride or a first car. He liked to fix things up, so if someone needed a hand finding a budget car, he would find one that needed a little work. He would then spend hours with them showing them how to fix it themselves, using his garage and tools. This was especially fun for him the last several years as he lost the ability to physically do much of the work, so he delighted in sitting back and supervising while someone else got dirty. Inevitably, he'd crack jokes and be a wise ass while you'd try and work as a stream of friends and neighbors came and went. His garage was a workshop, classroom, and social club.

Paul is survived by his wife Deb, his sons Mason (Sara) and Taylor (Ashley), his five granddaughters (Samantha, Reagan, Madison, Harper, Emerson), a sixth grandchild due in March of '23, his brother Bill (Candy), and his two sisters Alice and Pat (Rich). He has far, far too many friends, relations, and step grandchildren to list.

Funeral services will be at Washburn-McReavy Glen Haven Funeral Chapel and Memorial Gardens in Crystal at 5125 West Broadway on Tuesday August 30 at 10am. Interment will be at Fort Snelling at a date to be determined.

www.Washburn-McReavy.com

Glen Haven Chapel 763-533-8643

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Memorial Service

AUG **30**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Tribute Wall

BC

“ *To Paul's Family*

My name is Bill Chattin and I live in Florida. I served with Paul in Viet Nam. We were in the 110th Transportation Co at Ton Son Nhut near Saigon 1970-71. He was the company clerk and I was a supply clerk. He was one of my best friends there.

I was saddened to read of his death and my condolences go out to all of you in his family. We kept in touch for a just short time right after the service but as usually happens lost touch. But I was glad to get a call from him in the early 2000's (?) when he was in Daytona for bike week. We met in St Augustine for lunch and had a real good visit.

Paul was a real good guy. Like almost everyone of us there, he didn't like being in the army much and being away from home. As company clerk he had to work directly for the CO and the 1st Sgt. and they liked him a lot. As did everyone.

It was just a coincidence that I found out about his death. I was on-line looking at Viet Nam veteran websites and thought to google people I knew there and ran across his obituary. I was sad to see that he had passed away.

I am glad to see that Paul had a very good life and a fine family. I hope the best for you all.

*Bill Chattin
bill.chattin@yahoo.com*

Bill Chattin - September 27, 2022 at 12:13 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Paul Francis Barland.*



August 29, 2022 at 07:33 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul Francis Barland.*



August 27, 2022 at 11:22 AM